Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A method for identifying a candidate therapeutic for fat reduction, which comprises: (a) introducing a test molecule to a system which comprises a nucleic acid comprising a PLA2G1B nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: (i) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; (ii) a nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; (iii) a nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide that is 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and (iv) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence of (i), (ii), or (iii); or introducing a test molecule to a system which comprises a protein encoded by a nucleotide sequence of (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv); and (b) determining the presence or absence of an interaction between the test molecule and the nucleic acid or protein, whereby the presence of an interaction between the test molecule and the nucleic acid or protein identifies the test molecule as a candidate therapeutic for fat reduction.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the system is an animal.

3. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the system is a cell.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the PLA2G1B nucleotide sequence comprises a guanine at position 7328, a thymine at position 9182, or a guanine at position 7328 and a thymine at position 9182.

5. (original): A method for reducing fat deposition in a subject, which comprises administering a candidate therapeutic of claim 1 to a subject in need thereof, whereby the candidate therapeutic reduces fat deposition in the subject.

PAGE 4/6 * RCVD AT 12/8/2005 10:01:13 AM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/25 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:858 623 9476 * DURATION (mm-ss):01-52

6.-13. cancelled

14. (original): A method for identifying a candidate therapeutic for alleviating NIDDM, which comprises: (a) introducing a test molecule to a system which comprises a nucleic acid comprising a PLA2G1B nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: (i) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; (ii) a nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; (iii) a nucleotide sequence which encodes a polypeptide that is 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and (iv) a fragment of a nucleotide sequence of (i), (ii), or (iii); or introducing a test molecule to a system which comprises a protein encoded by a nucleotide sequence of (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv); and (b) determining the presence or absence of an interaction between the test molecule and the nucleic acid or protein, whereby the presence of an interaction between the test molecule and the nucleic acid or protein identifies the test molecule as a candidate therapeutic for treating NIDDM.

15. (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the system is an animal.

16. (original): T he method of claim 14, wherein the system is a cell.

17. (original): The method of claim 14, wherein the PLA2G1B nucleotide sequence comprises a cytosine at position 7256 of SEQ ID NO:1.

18. (original): A method for treating NIDDM in a subject, which comprises administering a candidate therapeutic of claim 14 to the subject in need thereof, whereby the candidate therapeutic treats NIDDM in the subject.

19.-23. cancelled

PAGE 5/6 * RCVD AT 12/8/2005 10:01:13 AM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/25 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:858 623 9476 * DURATION (mm-ss):01-52